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The CIA at cross purposes

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President Carter feels harshly restricted in his foreign operations, but the restrictions are necessary and if Congress is wise it will maintain them. We have seen, in both Democratic and Republican administrations, what happens when presidents are given a free hand to engage in covert activities abroad. The president himself understands this and while he may continue to gripe he seems to be the kind of man who can be counted on to play by the rules.

The country cannot be so sure of Admiral Stanfield Turner and the CIA. The Central Intelligence Agency has a long record of cheating on both Congress and the White House and it must be constantly watched lest it get more deeply involved in Africa. Admiral Turner has made clear his desire to do so and has gone around the president and the State Department to dicker directly with a key senator over the possibilities in Angola.

President Carter's problem in Africa is in placing the United States helpfully on the side of the black liberation movements before they are all taken over by the Russians and the Cubans. This problem has been exacerbated by the activities of the CIA, according to John Stockwell, the former chief of the CIA's covert operations in Angola. Stockwell says the

CIA worked in close affinity with white counter-revolutionary forces in Africa including the repressive government of South Africa. Here is a paragraph from an article Stockwell wrote earlier this month for The New York Times:

"During the covert Angola paramilitary program of 1975-76, in which Americans were used as military advisers without the knowledge of Congress, the White House or the State Department, the CIA documented its alliance with the white Africans with abundant cables that coordinated the joint United States-South African military effort. Our Pretoria, South Africa; Lusaka, Zambia and Kinshasa, Zaire, stations repeatedly urged even greater cooperation with South Africa. Our case officers stationed at these posts took independent initiatives to expand this union..."

Stockwell believes the CIA will never be able to help matters in Africa because its agents work most comfortably with the very people who are frustrating President Carter's policies there. If this is the case, the president's best move in Africa might be to pull the CIA out entirely. If he can't do all he would like to push his own policies in Africa, at least he shouldn't have to let one of his own agencies go on working against him. — L.H.